

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 21-34 and 47-61 are canceled herein.

Therefore, claims 9-20 and 35-46 are currently pending, and are the claims that have been elected in response to the Election/Restriction Requirement. These claims correspond to one of the inventions identified by the Examiner in the Election/Restriction Requirement.

In Item 6 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the elected claims include claims directed to the following species: Group I, a method comprising a shared executable hosted system; Group II, a method comprising a multiple executable procurement system; and Group III, a hosted executable procurement system.

The Applicants do not understand why the Examiner has separated the claims into the above-described species of Groups I, II and III, and do not fully understand the Groups. For example, the language used by the Examiner to describe the Groups appears to correspond to language recited in only a few of the dependent claims. For example, dependent claims 15-17 and 41-43 recite language which appears to be related to the Groups identified by the Examiner.

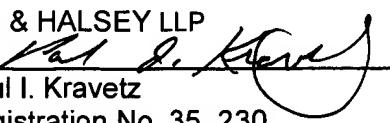
Moreover, the Applicants note that the preambles of claims 9-20 recite a "method". Claims 35-46 are similar, respectively, to claims 9-20, but have preambles that recite a "computer-readable storage medium". Therefore, it is believed that claims 35-46 are substantially similar to claims 9-20, and should be considered together with claims 9-20.

In view of the above, in a best efforts to comply with the Election/Restriction Requirement, the Applicants elect a species which includes claims 9-14, 18-20, 35-40, and 44-46.

For reasons described above, it is assumed that dependent claims 15-17 and 41-43 would not be included in the elected Species. However, it is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims should be allowed if the independent claims are allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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